is necessary or expedient so to do in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of offence, etc. may direct interception of messages on Telecommunication Networks in the country. However, the provisons of Indian Telegraph Act are not applicable to interception of postal articles.

(b) In order to protect the rights of an individual, the above mentioned provision is being exercised as per the guidelines laid under Rule 419A, Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 which have been formulated according to the directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 18-12-1996 in a writ petition (C No. 256 of 1991).

(c) Indian Telegraph Act is being reviewed in the new Communication Convergence Bill which has already been introduced in Lok Sabha during August, 2001. It also contains similar provision.

Advertisement of Dispatch of Bills

4547. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice in Chennai Telephones of advertising in the Newspapers regarding the details of dispatch of bills has been found quite useful;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend this practice to other cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Depending upon need-perception, the practice is already being followed in certain other cities as well; and is likely to be extended further to Akola, Amravati, Bangalore, Bongaigaon,

Dibrugarh, Goa, Jorhat, Kalyan, Mangalore, Nagaon, Osmanabad, Raigad, Sangli, Satara, Silchar, Sindhudurg, Tezpur and Wardha in near future

Revenue generation by IT industries

†4548. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue generated by Indian Information Technology industries was expected to touch 4.7 Billion dollar till the end of March, 2001;

(b) if not, the amount of revenue generated during said period; and

(c) the year-wise rate of growth of revenue registered during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the NASSCOM estimate, the total revenue of the information technology industry in the country during the year ending March 2001 was US $ 12.18 Billion, of which the revenue through Software exports was US $ 6.217 Billion.

(c) The annual growth rate of Information Technology industry (which includes computers, communication and broadcasting equipment, components, software exports and domestic software) in country in the last three years is as follows:

Financial Year	Production (Rs. Crores)	Growth
1997-1998	20420	—
1998-1999	27340	34%
1999-2000	36050	32%
2000-2001	51150	42%

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.